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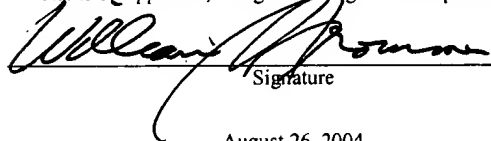
Applicants : William FORD et al. Notice of Allowance
Dated: 06/29/2004
Serial No. : 09/988,978 Confirmation No. 9531
Title of Invention : **PROCESS FOR IMMOBILIZATION OF NUCLEIC
ACID MOLECULES ON A SUBSTRATE**
Filed : November 19, 2001
Examiner: : Jeffrey Siew
Group Art Unit : 1642

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Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 26, 2004

William S. Frommer, Reg. No. 25,506

Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative



Signature

August 26, 2004

Date of Signature

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which
accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed June 29, 2004. To the extent the Examiner's
Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are

allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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